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But U.S. orbits out of range

Turner confirms Russ killer satellites

By Jack Fuller

Chicago Tribune Press Service

WASHINGTON—Despite the Soviet Union's ability to shoot down some United States spy satellites, CIA Director Adm. Stansfield Turner said Tuesday U.S. reliance on technological spying is "burgeoning every day."

Turner, who has generated controversy by firing hundreds of operatives stationed at the Central Intelligence Agency's headquarters, said spies and analysts still perform a vital role.

"Technical [information] collection tells you what somebody did yesterday and today," he said at a breakfast meeting with reporters, "but what decision-makers really want to know is what they are going to do tomorrow."

Turner confirmed that the Soviet Union has operational "killer satellites" that can destroy some U.S. satellites.

PRESIDENT CARTER denied Monday

day that the Soviet Union could disrupt the satellite communications system that would be used to transmit attack orders in case of nuclear war.

Pentagon sources later explained that U.S. communications satellites fly in orbits too high to be reached by the "killer satellites" the Soviets have tested.

Turner said the personnel cuts he made—most of them from the clandestine operations unit—do not reduce the number of spies working overseas.

"They were excess people who sit there and clog the system, making clandestine collection ineffective," he said.

"Some cuts, Turner said, were designed to open upper-level jobs to younger CIA agents so they will have been trained to fill higher positions as officials retire."

The CIA, he said, "has been run effectively like a family business for years. We've had an abundance of talent. But these people are all close to retirement."

Turner attacked fired intelligence agents who have carried their grievances about their dismissals to the press. "When the spies, the intelligence agents of this country, do not abide by constitutional authority we are all in trouble," he said.

NONETHELESS he insisted that these bearers of some of the nation's most closely guarded secrets do not pose a security risk now that they have been fired.

He singled out Frank Snepp, a CIA official who resigned to write a book about the final days of the collapse of South Viet Nam. Turner charged that Snepp may have jeopardized the safety of Vietnamese who worked with the CIA and remained in Viet Nam after the fall of Saigon.

Turner said Snepp had promised to show him the manuscript of the book before it was published, but violated that promise.

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